Italia 2006
Giardino dietro casa
My hostess’s backyard
She grows many flowers and herbs.

Un parco di Orvieto
Public park in Orvieto
**Il giardino comunale**

Orvieto’s main park—very much like Lithia Park in Ashland, Oregon—was situated near the wall that surrounds the city and offered it protection in medieval times.

**La panorama**

Orvieto is on a hilltop, and this is just one view of the surrounding countryside.

**Il duomo**

The main cathedral in Orvieto began in 1290. It has a facade that many, even non-Orvietani, consider to be the most beautiful in all of Italy.

**La prima cena italiana**

The antipasto of my first Italian meal in a restaurant

The antipasto was entitled “Bruschetta di quattro sapori” or “Bruschetta of four flavors.”
Allo scalò

Two people are walking on the road that leads to the lower part of Orvieto, called the scalò.

Il muro

Tufo is "a light, porous rock formed by consolidation of volcanic ash." The Orvietani used it to construct a wall around their city.
Il tramonto

Sunset from Orvieto

L'università

The central courtyard of the Centro Studi Città di Orvieto, the university I attended.
S. Luca
A winged ox represents St. Luke.

S. Giovanni
An eagle represents St. John.

S. Matteo e S. Marco
A winged man (left) represents St. Matthew and a winged lion (right), St. Mark.

La facciata
The facade of the Orvieto cathedral is not painted. It is comprised of motifs depicting biblical stories for the illiterate of medieval times and mosaics of the 19th century that give it its colors.
Il duomo di Orvieto
The construction of Orvieto’s cathedral in 1290 was inspired by the Miracle of Bolsena.

L’organo
They were tuning the organ of Orvieto’s cathedral for an organ concert.
The altar of Orvieto’s cathedral

Bloodstained altar cloth on display in Orvieto’s cathedral

In the Miracle of Bolsena, nearby Orvieto, blood dripped from a consecrated host and stained this altar cloth.
La villa di Adriano

Hadrian (76-138 AD) was emperor of Rome. He lived outside Rome in this villa at Tivoli.

Camera da letto

Hadrian’s bedroom

Un castello a Tivoli

A thunderstorm was coming into Tivoli making this castel look ominous.
Il duomo di Firenze
Florence’s largest cathedral

La cupola di Brunelleschi
Brunelleschi’s dome, an architectural feat for 1463, is the largest in Italy.
Ciliegie
Fruit for dessert in my host family’s kitchen

Dentro il duomo di Firenze
Inside Florence’s cathedral

Fontana di Nettuno
The Fountain of Neptune by Ammannati in 1575 depicts the Roman god of the sea and celebrates Tuscany’s naval victories.
Copia del Davide
A copy of Michelangelo’s David has stood in the Piazza della Signoria since 1873.

Perseo di Cellini
A bronze statue from 1554 of Perseus beheading Medusa
Pentecoste

A dove descends into the Piazza del Duomo during the feast of the Palombella held annually on Pentecost.

Un tamburo

Drummers dressed in medieval garb initiate the festivities.
La mia ospite
My host mom in the brown jacket

Palombella
More drummers for feast of the Palombella

Torre di Maurizio
Staircase to the top of the Tower of Maurice
I contadini

Locals dress up as farmers for the antique crafts fair during the feast of the Palombella.

Orvieto dal Torre di Maurizio

Orvieto from the Tower of Maurice

The church I attended each Sunday, the Chiesa di San Domenico, is in the background.
I tetti dei edifici orvietani
Rooftops of Orvieto’s buildings

When fog covers Orvieto, its duomo, in the background of this picture, is said to appear to sail on a sea of clouds.

Il sepolcro di Cesare
Ever since 44 BC, people have been leaving flowers on Caesar’s grave.

Il coliseo
In 75 AD Vespasian began the Amphitheatrum Flavium in Rome, better known as the Colosseum.

Forum Romanum
The Roman Forum
Corso Cavour

Corso Cavour, the main street of Orvieto

Conte di Cavour was “the first premier of a unified Italy” in 1861.

Dipinto del sposo

A painting of the late husband of my hostess dressed as a medieval man for the annual Corpus Domini celebration.
Fiera dei contadini
Farmers sell their crafts.

Un chiromante
The crafts fair even included a palm reader!

Il Palio d'Oca
Drummers initiate the palio in Orvieto. Many Italian towns have a palio, or medieval horse race. Orvieto’s palio occurs June 10th.

Il palio
The horse race is held at night in the Piazza del Popolo, the same piazza their markets occur every Thursday and Saturday.
La luna e il duomo
The moonlight was shining on Orvieto’s cathedral.

Un bar a Perugia
A typical Italian bar, Perugia

Assisi
The cathedral of Assisi where Saint Francis is buried with pax or “peace” written on the lawn in Latin.

La Fontana di Trevi
The Trevi Fountain (1735) is the most famous fountain in Rome. It was built by Nicola Salvi (1697-1751). Trevi means “three roads.”
La colazione italiana
My Italian breakfasts consisted of *tè* (tea), *frutta* (fruit), and homemade *marmellata* (jelly).

I gatti della mia ospite
Four of my hostess's six cats sleeping lazily in Orvieto

Romeo, Maurizio, Mimi, Wendy, and ... I can't remember the other two.
Una chiesa francese
A French church at the top of the Spanish Steps in Rome

Pantheon
An interior view of the Pantheon’s dome
Pantheon

Being over 2,000 years old, the Pantheon is Rome’s oldest building still standing today.

Il cupola del Pantheon

The dome of the Pantheon was an architectural feat. Toward the top of the dome one can find ceramic jar fragments in the concrete. This was to prevent it from caving in under its own weight.

Il Tevere

The Tiber River and St. Peter’s Basilica, Rome
La Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi
Lorenzo Bernini's Fountain of the Four Rivers, Rome

La Basilica di San Pietro
It took a long time to walk to St. Peter's Basilica because this piazza, where John Paul II's funeral was held, covers an area as large as the basilica itself.
La basilica è lontana!

St. Peter's Basilica in the distance

Benedicto XV

Inside the basilica there was a statue of Benedict XV.

La Pietà

Michelangelo’s Pietà (c. 1500) behind glass in St. Peter’s Basilica

Un teatro romano

A Roman theater in Pompeii, south of Naples

Mt. Vesuvius erupted and destroyed Pompeii in 79 AD. Vesuvius’s ashes preserved the city.
La basilica stessa
Sunlight gloriously shone into St. Peter’s Basilica.

Pio XII
Pope Pius XII
Il monumento di 
Gregorio XIII
The Religion 
figure’s tablet of 
the monument to 
Pope Gregory XIII 
recounting the 
pronunciation of 
the Gregorian 
calendar in 1582 
reads “I know 
your works and 
faith” in Latin.

Il baldacchino di 
Bernini
Bernini built the 
baldacchin of St. 
Peter’s Basilica 
out of bronze in 
the 17th century. 
Bernini also built 
the colonnade 
around the piazza 
of St. Peter’s 
Basilica.
Un altare della basilica

Another altar in St. Peter’s Basilica

Museo archeologico

The largest open room in any museum is at the Naples museum of archaeology. It features a solar observatory that projects sunlight onto the floor, telling ancients the time of year.
**Atlante**

Atlas carries the world on his shoulders in the large room of the Naples museum.

**Le strade napoletane**

A police officer directs traffic in the hectic streets of Naples.
Un vignetto pompeiano
Archaeologists uncovered seeds of ancient grapes in Pompeii and reconstructed this vineyard with the same variety of grapes. Mt. Vesuvius is in the background.

Un dipinto pompeiano
A Pompeian wall painting

Il Corteo Storico
The Historical Court of Orvieto, comprised of hundreds of Orvietani, celebrates the Miracle of Bolsena every year during Corpus Domini (or Corpus Christi) in Orvieto. There are medieval musicians, banner fliers, representatives of the saints, and representatives of each of the four districts or quartieri in Orvieto. I lived in the Quartiere Corsica, whose flag depicts a castle.
We stayed at a hotel in Pompeii not too far from this beautiful church. I went to mass in this church the next morning, a Sunday.
Le balestre
There were even people carrying medieval crossbows in the Corteo Storico procession.

Bandiere
The Orvietani carried banners depicting the Miracle of Bolsena during the Corpus Domini procession.

La tovaglia d'altare
Then at last the sacred bloodstained altar cloth of the miracle traveled through Orvieto’s streets from Bolsena.

La processione
The procession meandered through all the main streets of Orvieto.
I contadini

Like during the feast of the Palombella, the Orvietani dress as farmers and hold a crafts fair during Corpus Domini.

Il vescovo di Germania

This banner displays the bishop of Germany who did not believe in the transubstantiation of Christ but did believe after the Miracle of Bolsena happened before his eyes.
I religiosi

The religious people were last in the procession.

La gente del Corteo Storico

The Orvietani make the dress for the people of the Historical Court from scratch every year.
I spettatori

Onlookers watch the procession from the Piazza della Repubblica.

E continua...

And the procession continues...

Teatro nelle strade

The audience, following actors throughout the streets of Orvieto, watched modern reenactments of biblical stories.

Il duomo di Siena

The striped architecture of the duomo of Siena, like the duomo of Orvieto, is Moorish in origin. Slate and marble create the dark and light stripes.
Laude in Urbis

In front of Orvieto’s cathedral the actors in the play Laude in Urbis: La strada per Emmaus (Praise in the City: The road to Emmaus) recounted the Genesis stories.

Nella Chiesa di San Francesco

On the altar of Orvieto’s oldest church, the Chiesa di San Francesco, of the 13th century, actors reenacted Abraham’s sacrifice of Isaac.
Then the audience descended into hell. Later we were redeemed by Christ, and the audience members celebrated by eating and drinking with the actors.

Il duomo di Siena
An interior view of the cathedral of Siena
Il duomo di Siena
More interior views of the cathedral of Siena

Campagna di Siena
The countryside of Siena
Le tre virtù

Attached to the *duomo* of Siena is an art gallery with amazing wall paintings and mosaics. The three statues represent the three theological virtues: faith, hope, and love.

Una statua

A statue in the *duomo* of Siena
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>La campagna a Siena</th>
<th>La stazione ad Aversa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More countryside surrounding Siena</td>
<td>The Aversa train station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il treno è arrivato</td>
<td>La cena di addio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My train arrived in Aversa</td>
<td>The study abroad program’s farewell dinner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Una chiesa ad Aversa
An old church in Aversa

Una fontana aversana
A fountain in a newer piazza in Aversa
Le tombe a Cerveteri
Etruscan tombs from before Christ in Cerveteri

Il Pozzo di San Patrizio
The bottom of Saint Patrick’s Well in Orvieto
Il Pozzo di San Patrizio
Saint Patrick's Well is the only well in the world shaped as a double helix such that donkeys could go down, fetch water, and come back up without interfering with other donkeys.

Il Ponte Vecchio a Firenze
Florence's Ponte Vecchio or "old bridge"

Arte della ceramica
A local artisan in Orvieto makes, paints, and fires her own ceramics.

L'uomo
Interesting graffiti of Jesus with "the man" written in Italian in Florence